

Draft Lake Champlain Federal Partners Meeting Summary September 9, 2006

Edited by:
Erik H. Beck, US EPA

Written by:
Kip Potter, USDA

January 24, 2007

Abstract

This regularly scheduled meeting was held at the offices of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, 356 Mountain View Drive, Colchester, Vermont, and by Conference Call bridge provided by EPA New England

Attendees:

- Erik Beck
- Tom Berry
- Mark Malchoff
- Marilyn Stephenson
- Jason Shea
- Beckett Grealish
- Jurij Homziak
- Mike Adams

- Kip Potter
- Bill Howland
- Dave Tilton

Summary

Approval of Minutes

Motion approved to accept minutes from previous meeting.

Legislative Update—Tom Berry

- Continuing resolution for Federal Government until at least November, the House has the lowest proposed budget recommendations; we will probably end up with the Senate version or the 2006 operating levels. All earmarks will be delayed.
- Water Resources Act, COE - is currently being debated, may include:
 1. Study and construct fish passages
 2. Milfoil study
 3. Water chestnut management
 4. Geographic mapping in Basin
 5. Streambank stabilization assistance
 6. LC canal barrier
 7. Groundwater study
 8. Waterfront improvements such as bike path, ECHO and Moran
 9. A number of emerging stabilization projects, Winooski, Otter Creek and Missisquoi
 10. Rubinstein water quality studies
 11. Waterbury Dam
- Heritage Partnership Act

- Ready to be approved
- Some funding issues still, appropriation might be problematic
- Wilderness Bill—Looks like it should be approved

Lake Champlain Basin Grants—Erik Beck

EPA Recently awarded the following grants:

- \$366,463 for VTDEC
- \$206,446 for NEIWPCC Cultural Resource Protection
- \$1,042,482 for NEIWPCC Water Quality Protection

LCBP Update—Bill Howland

- Have made a request for funding of Phase I work elements, will speed up the transition of funds and move timeline up. Approved \$1.5 million in July.
- represented Basin at NAN Conference during the first week of November (National Aquatic Nuisance Species Conference)
- Looking for Steering Comm. recommended tasks in January with estimated dollar amounts.
- Received \$300,000 from IJC for Nutrient Management Planning in the Missisquoi Basin. Could increase to \$500,000 next year. Will provide technical support for plan development.
- October 10th the “Progress 2006” Flyers will be available and distributed (140,000 copies)
- Recommended to COE for infrastructure development in Burlington

EPA Update—Erik Beck

EPA personnel performed dives in Otter Creek to observe and evaluate native mussel populations, did find a very small colony of zebra mussels.

VTNRCS Update—Kip Potter

- Applications for Farmbill programs coming in now for 2007. Most cutoffs for applications are later in October or November.
- Expect funding for programs to be level in some and to decrease slightly in others
- State Technical Committee and Subcommittees have met several times. Will have a new 3rd funding pool for EQIP (single practices)
- WHIP funding will be targeted more to state and national priorities.

USFWS Update—Dave Tilton

- The Lewis Creek lamprey treatments will be underway soon. The treatments of lampricide will occur 7 days a week for 2 to 3 weeks.
- There will also be some habitat restoration work on Lewis Creek for mussels.

NYNRCS Update—Marilyn Stephenson

- Ron Alvarado is the new State conservationist
- progress reporting and new construction is ramping up
- County Workgroups met recently to identify resource conservation priorities
- new watershed based ranking template for EQIP
- will allocate funds by watershed
- One pool of funds is for construction, another pool is for NMP's
- Two WP easements with past violations, have now been restored by landowners

UVM Sea Grant Extension Update—Jurij Homziak

- submitted Sea Grant proposal to D.C.
- increased requirements for \$350,000 for research
- currently wrapping up 4 projects, including: cormorant management, rainbow smelt and alewife, lamprey control, and Lampricide effects
- new RFP will be issued in fall for research
- residential NPS, cooperating with other states on efforts
- new staff person for water quality education, Emma Melvin, NEMO program
- Lake Champlain Action Project to work with schools and GMC
- Healthy Communities, an urban education effort to develop curriculum on healthy streams
- Watershed Alliance, EPA Clean Beaches program with local officials
- Rain garden demo's in Winooski
- 2 fisheries publications by Mark: NAS and Fisheries
- Supported TNC native plant nursery
- NWRP, Extension training materials for Municipal officials on stream-bank stabilization with bioengineering, including a demo site.

Plattsburgh State Extension Sea Grant Update—Mark Malchoff

- Hosted invasive species workshops
- Provided training CD-ROMs to stakeholders around the Lake
- \$60,000 for invasive species control in APA
- Sea Grant website has been retooled

Opportunities for Federal Action Update—Erik Beck

Opportunities for Federal Action will be out prior to the end of the year. Some final edits are needed.

USACOE Update—Jason Shea

- stormwater control construction project in Lake George underway
- will provide some comments to Federal Action document

EPA Region 2 Update— Beckett Grealish

Will award NYDED grants 1st quarter of 2007.

Miscellaneous Business

- Motion approved to table chair selection until the next meeting
- Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 9th 2007 in Colchester, VT (NRCS State Office)